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Memorandum for: THE RECORD

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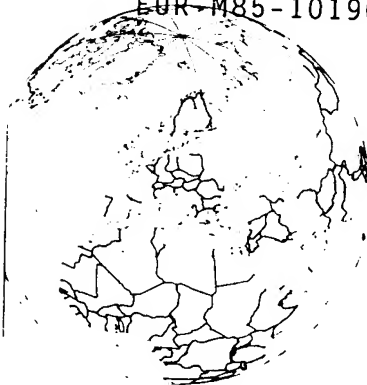
These Talking Point Papers were requested by NIO/WE. "French Policy on the PLO" was prepared by [redacted], "PLO Relations with Italy" by [redacted] EURA/WE/CM.

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Attachments:

EUR M85-10188



30 October 1985.

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Office of European Analysis
Directorate of Intelligence

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Talking Points for NIO

EUR/WE/CM/

29 OCT 85

French Policy on the PLO

The French try to maintain good relations with the PLO, and have rendered them services occasionally (French ships, for example, evacuated PLO troops from Lebanon in 1982 after the Israeli invasion). Palestinian terrorists do not usually strike French targets. We suspect that this may be in return for French permission to operate in France, but we have only rumors to back up our suspicions.

France allows the PLO to maintain an office in Paris, but does not grant the delegation diplomatic status. High ranking French officials meet with PLO leaders from time to time (Foreign Minister Dumas talked with Arafat in Tunis last March), but President Mitterrand has refused to receive an official visit from Arafat unless the PLO first recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Paris recognizes the Palestinians' right to self-determination, but does not consider the PLO to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The French government believes the PLO should take part in any Middle East settlement, but that others who are involved (Israel, Jordan, etc.) should participate as well.

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The French have frequently offered to act as facilitators of diplomacy aimed at settling the Palestinian question because they have good contacts with all parties involved.



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